

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A picture frame scanner comprising:
a frame defining a display area, said frame disposed generally upright;
a transparent retention pane mounted within said frame, spanning said display area;
a support back spanning said display area, said support back spaced apart from and adjacent to said retention pane; and
an image scanning bar operatively mounted in said frame for moving across said display area and scanning an electronic image of an item that is disposed between said support back and said retention pane into memory storage.
2. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said memory storage is located within said picture frame scanner.
3. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said memory storage is located on an external computer.
4. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said scanner is selectively deployable in landscape and portrait orientations.
5. The picture frame scanner of claim 4 wherein said scanner scans when deployed in either of said landscape and portrait orientations.
6. The picture frame scanner of claim 4 further comprising a stand extending rearwardly from a lower corner of said frame, said stand selectively maintaining said scanner in said landscape and portrait orientations.
7. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 further comprising a rotation selection control for rotating said electronic image.

8. The picture frame scanner of claim 7 wherein said rotation control is a user operative control mounted on said scanner.

9. The picture frame scanner of claim 7 wherein said rotation control is a user operative wireless remote control.

10. The picture frame scanner of claim 7 wherein said rotation control is a sensor disposed in said frame for operatively sensing an orientation of said frame and rotating said electronic image to have an orientation for viewing.

11. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said frame is disposed at a slight angle, and said support back is disposed at an acute angle relative to a supporting surface on which said scanner rests.

12. The picture frame scanner of claim 11 wherein said slight angle is in the range of 10 to 20 degrees and said acute angle is in the range of 80 to 70 degrees.

13. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said frame, said support back and said retention pane define an item receptive slot for selective user insertion into and removal of said item from said frame between said support back and said retention pane.

14. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said image scanning bar extends across said display area and comprises a light for lighting said item during scanning and a mechanism to move said bar across said display area to scan said item.

15. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 further comprising a display glass mounted within said frame, spanning said display area, spaced apart from said retention pane.

16. The picture frame scanner of claim 15 wherein said image scanning bar is operatively mounted between said retention pane and said display glass.
17. The picture frame scanner of claim 15 wherein said display glass is treated to at least in part keep out ambient light during said scanning.
18. The picture frame scanner of claim 17 wherein said display glass pane is polarized.
19. The picture frame scanner of claim 15 wherein said display glass comprises electronically opaquing glass activated by initiation of said scanning.
20. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said support back comprises an electronic display panel for displaying electronic images through said retention pane when an item is not disposed between said support back and said retention pane.
21. The picture frame scanner of claim 20 wherein said images are images scanned by said scanner and stored in memory disposed in said scanner.
22. The picture frame scanner of claim 20 wherein said images are stored on a computer connected to said picture frame scanner.
23. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 further comprising controls mounted on said frame.
24. The picture frame scanner of claim 23 wherein said controls are mounted on a front surface of said frame.

25. The picture frame scanner of claim 23 wherein said controls are mounted on a rear surface of said frame.

26. The picture frame scanner of claim 23 wherein said controls comprise at least one of a group consisting of:

- a power button;
- a standby button;
- a scan initiation button;
- an image rotation button
- a scan to computer button; and
- a scan to email attachment button.

27. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 further comprising an input/output port.

28. The picture frame scanner of claim 27 wherein power is supplied to said scanner through said input/output port.

29. The picture frame scanner of claim 27 further comprising a power port for connecting said scanner to an external power supply.

30. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said frame comprises a hinged access portion operatively opening to receive said item to be scanned operatively closing for scanning of said item.

31. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 wherein said frame is adapted to selectively receive snap fit covers.

32. The picture frame scanner of claim 1 further comprising a document cover hinged to said frame, operative to cover said display area during scanning.

33. A method for displaying and scanning an item, said method comprising the steps of:

supporting said item to be scanned, generally upright in a frame;
retaining said item within said frame for display and scanning; and
scanning an electronic image of said item into memory storage.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein said scanning step further comprises the step of selectively initiating said scanning.

35. The method of claim 33 wherein said scanning step further comprises the step of storing said electronic image in remote memory storage.

36. The method of claim 33 wherein said supporting step further comprises the step of disposing said item at a slight angle relative to vertical.

37. The method of claim 33 wherein said scanning step further comprises the steps of:

lighting said item; and
moving a image scanning bar over said item.

38. The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of displaying an electronic image when an item is not disposed in said frame.

39. The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of:
disposing said item to be scanned in said frame facing outward.

40. The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of:
initiating said scanning step with a wireless device.

41. The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of:
rotating said electronic image with a wireless device.

42. A system for displaying and scanning an item, said system comprising:
means for supporting, generally upright, an item to be scanned and displayed; and
means for scanning said item into memory storage.

43. The system of claim 42 further comprising means for selectively initiating
scanning of said item by said scanning means.

44. The system of claim 42 wherein said memory storage is located external to
said system.

45. The system of claim 42 wherein said supporting means disposes said item at
an acute angle, relative to vertical.

46. The system of claim 42 further comprising means for selectively electronically
displaying images when an item is not being displayed.